Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-23. (Canceled).
- 24. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28, wherein the polypeptide functions to promote protein exit from the endoplasmic reticulum and protein maturation.
- 25. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.
- 26. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.
- 27. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is a transmembrane protein.
- 28. (Previously presented) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 24.
- 29. (Previously presented) An isolated cell transformed with the recombinant polynucleotide of claim 28.

- 30. (Previously presented) A method of producing the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 24, the method comprising:
- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein the cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 24, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
- 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.
- 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.
- 33. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polynucleotide sequence having at least about 95% sequence identity to a <u>the</u> polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that is a transmembrane protein, wherein the polypeptide functions to promote protein exit from the endoplasmic reticulum and protein maturation;
 - b) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of a); and
 - c) an RNA equivalent of the polynucleotide sequence of a) or b).
- 34. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 33 comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.